CA
VOC FOR IOP/FN
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ROMANIA'S HUNGARIAN MINORITY

ANNCR:

THREE ROMANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIALS HAVE APPEALED TO PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU TO TAKE ACTION ON GRIEVANCES BY ROMANIA'S HUNGARIAN MINORITY. IN A TWENTY-SEVEN PAGE DOCUMENT, ONE OF THE OFFICIALS, LAJOS TAKACS, CALLS ON THE ROMANIA GOVERNMENT TO TAKE EIGHTEEN MEASURES TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR THE HUNGARIANS. RON PEMSTEIN RECENTLY VISITED TRANSYLVANIA, WHERE MOST OF THE HUNGARIANS LIVE IN ROMANIA AND FOLED THIS BACKGROUND REPORT FROM CLUJ, ROMANIA.

VOICE:

FERENC SZILAGYI BROUGHT DOWN THE HOUSE WITH APPLAUSE AS HE SANG THE ARIA "RIDI PAGIACCIO" IN THE HUNGARIAN, HIS APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE IN CLUJ WAS A MIXTURE OF ROMANIANS AND ETHNIC HUNGARIANS. MISTER SZILAGYI, LIKE HIS COLLEAGUES IN THE HUNGARIAN OPERA, CAN ALSO PERFORM IN ROMANIAN. (OPT) IN FACT, HE SHORTLY WILL BE TRAVELING TO EAST GERMANY WHERE HE WILL BE PERFORMING IN THE WEIMAR OPERA. (END OPT)

THE HUNGARIAN OPERA IN CLUJ, AND THE QUALITY OF ITS COMPANY, IS ONE EXAMPLE CITED BY ROMANIAN OFFICIALS TO ANSWER CHARGES BY HUNGARIAN INTELLECTUALS THAT CULTURAL REPRESSION AND FORCED ROMANIANIZATION ARE BEING USED AGAINST THE NEARLY TWO MILLION HUNGARIANS IN ROMANIA. MOST OF THEM LIVE HERE IN TRANSYLVANIA, AN AREA POPULATED BY HUNGARIANS FOR CENTURIES. BETWEEN 1917 AND 1947 TRANSYLVANIA CHANGED HANDS THREE TIMES BETWEEN AUSTRIA, HUNGARY AND ROMANIA.

THE ISSUE OF HOW THE HUNGARIANS ARE TREATED IN ROMANIA HAS LONG BEEN KEPT UNDER COVER BECAUSE HUNGARY AND ROMANIA ARE

ALLIES IN THE SOVIET-LED WARSAW PACT. BUT HUNGARIAN POET GYULA LIVES HAS RECENTLY PUBLISHED ESSAYS ACCUSING THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT OF FORCING HUNGARIANS TO ASSIMILATE AND ATTEMPTING TO WIPE OUT USE OF THEIR LANGUAGE IN FAVOR OF ROMANIAN. NOW, FORMER ROMANIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, KAROLY KIRALY, HAS BEEN JOINED BY THREE OTHER ROMANIAN PARTY OFFICIALS IN MAKING SIMILAR CHARGES.

ROMANIA REACTED ANGRILY TO MISTER KIRALY'S LETTER OF COMPLAINTS BY SENDING HIM INTO INTERNAL EXILE AND BY SEARCHING HUNGARIAN HOMES IN THIS AREA FOR COPIES OF HIS LETTER. BUT PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU ADMITTED IN A SPEECH IN MARCH THAT MISTAKES AND ABUSES HAVE OCCURRED WITH RESPECT TO MINORITY GROUPS. AS FOR THE CHARGE OF ASSIMILATION, HE INSISTED THAT MINORITIES MUST SPEAK ROMANIAN TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN ALL FIELDS.

(OPT) A PARTY OFFICIAL HERE PUT IT MORE BLUNTLY, ASKING HOW THE GOVERNMENT CAN ASSIGN A HUNGARIAN-SPEAKING DOCTOR TO A ROMANIAN AREA IF HE CANNOT SPEAK ROMANIAN? YOUNG HUNGARIANS SUCH AS THE OPERA SINGER, FERENC SZILAGYI, KNOW THEY CANNOT ADVANCE IN ROMANIAN SOCIETY OR TRAVEL ABROAD UNLESS THEY CAN REPRESENT THE COUNTRY BY SPEAKING ROMANIAN.

OFFICIALS HERE CITE THE NUMBER OF SCHOOLS TEACHING IN THE HUNGARIAN LANGUAGE. BUT THEY SAY THE STUDENTS ALSO WANT ADVANCED TRAINING IN ROMANIAN. BUT CLUJ PARTY SECRETARY AUREL NEGUCIOIU CONTENDS THAT HUNGARIAN STUDENTS SAY THEY CANNOT ADVANCE IN THEIR PROFESSIONS UNLESS THEY KNOW ROMANIAN.

SO WHAT HUNGARIAN INTELLECTUALS CALL FORCED ASSIMILATION, ROMANIAN OFFICIALS CALL SELF-INTEREST, IN ANY CASE, ALL HUNGARIANS THIS REPORTER ENCOUNTERED IN TRANSYLVANIA, SPOKE FLUENT ROMANIAN.

MEANWHILE, HUNGARY, HAS CALLED FOR MORE FREQUENT CONTACTS ACROSS THE BORDER AND THE OPENING OF A CONSULATE HERE. ROMANIA AGREED TO THE MEASURES BUT LITTLE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN YET.

WHEN HUNGARY CONTROLLED TRANSYLVANIA, ROMANIANS COMPLAINED THAT THEIR RIGHTS AS A MAJORITY WERE NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED. NOW THAT ETHNIC HUNGARIANS LIVE AS A LARGE MINORITY UNDER THE ROMANIANS THEIR COMPLAINTS OF DISCRIMINATION HAVE A SIMILAR RING.

WJL/PY